

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 03386 262024Z

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 3386

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, SHUM, NU, CS

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SOMOZA: JULY 25

REFS: (A) MANAGUA 3350, (B) STATE 183451

1. PRESIDENT SOMOZA ASKED AMBASSADOR SOLAUN TO MEET WITH HIM EVENING OF JULY 25. FOREIGN MINISTER QUINTANA AND AMBASSADOR TO U.S. GUILLERMO SEVILLA SACASA WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING. SOMOZA TOLD AMB THAT QUINTANA HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE AMB WAS LEAVING FOR WASHINGTON ON JULY 26 AND THAT HE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF AMB WOULD TAKE HIS RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER (REF B) TO WASHINGTON.

2. CONTRARY TO SOMOZA'S EARLIER ASSERTION (PARA 8, REF A), THE LETTER RAISES NO NEW ISSUES. IT RESTATES THE POINTS RAISED IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER AND ADDS THAT THE LIBERAL PARTY (PLN) HAS LONG SUPPORTED HUMAN RIGHTS. IT GOES ON TO EXPRESS PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S GREAT APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTEREST IN NICARAGUAN MATTERS. (N.B: AMB SOLAUN IS HAND-CARRYING SOMOZA LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND WILL ARRIVE WASHINGTON MORNING OF JULY 27).

3. THE MEETING WAS BRIEF, AND ONLY SUBSTANTIVE MATTER RAISED BY PRESIDENT SOMOZA WAS HIS CONCERN THAT COSTA RICA REMAINS A
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PAGE 02 MANAGU 03386 262024Z

SAFEHAVEN FOR FSLN TERRORISTS (SEE MANAGUA 3361). SOMOZA SUGGESTED TO THE AMB THAT THE USG SHOULD ADVISE PRESIDENT CARAZO THAT HIS GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO CLOSE COSTA RICA'S DOORS TO THE FSLN. PRESIDENT SOMOZA STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT IF FSLN FORAYS INTO NICARAGUA CONTINUE, HE WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO AUTHORIZE THE GN TO PURSUE FLEEING INSURRECTIONISTS WHEREVER THEIR TRAILS MIGHT LEAD. SOMOZA DID NOT SAY WHETHER THIS HAD BEEN

COMMUNICATED TO THE GOCR. HE REQUESTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCT THE US AMB TO COSTA RICA TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH PRE-
SIDENT CARAZO SOON.
TUCKER

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH MS KENNEDY S/S-O.

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NNN

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